Lima, Melissa

Period: 5

10/14/13

AP English Language

The Crucible: Anticipation/Reaction Guide

9. Beliefs in opposition to common values should be illegal.

Beliefs in opposition to common values should not be illegal. As a person you have the freedom to think of anything in your mind. Why should someone else tell you that what you are thinking is either right or wrong? If people speak their minds, then they should be able to be heard and taken seriously. Taking away the right to speak freely would be to go against the United States Government as well as the Constitution. Things are more easily blown out of proportion when taking away one’s freedom of speech because you are only taking the views from one person or thing and people might view that as unfair, which, in my opinion, it is. By narrowing your opinions, your decisions, are bound to turn out differently because you have a smaller amount of ideas to base your decisions on. Common values, meaning the ideas and opinions that most other people have, are not always correct for people to believe in. Just because many people are saying something or doing something, it does not necessarily mean that it is a correct thing to do or say. There will be people who oppose the common ideas and values of others; this should not be illegal because everyone has a right to think independently. Thinking independently is what makes our country strong and what makes things happen. If others were not able to think against the crowd then we are all just blindly following whatever we have been told is right without even questioning it. We would be nowhere if it were not for the creative thinking of others and the opposition to popular beliefs. If people did not stand up for what they believed then many of the rights, laws, and discoveries that we have today would not exist. If nobody can think against the crowd then we are all just blindly following whatever we have been told is right without even questioning it. These days having a mind of your own and doing things differently from your stereotype automatically makes you an outcast. If you really think about it, many of the important people we come to learn about today were all outcasts; they were rejected by society because they did not support the beliefs of society. Although it seemed like a horrible thing back then, being an outcast leads you to things and provides you with ideas that nobody else has. When you believe in the same things as others you are making yourself and others look at you in a way that you are not worth thinking outside of the box. Everyone is entitled to his or her own beliefs and no one should feel like they are any less than anyone. Although of this, people need to be aware of what is appropriate and not try to push their beliefs on other individuals. If people's beliefs intrude and disturb the public good, then those beliefs cannot be expressed to the public legally. So, people's beliefs should not be illegal, as long as they don't force those beliefs on others and disturb the public. Beliefs in opposition to common values should be legal as long as they do not cross the boundaries. New concepts might scare certain people, but that does not mean they should not exist. Ideas are what make the world go round and common values can be opposed whenever a person feels like it.